

**MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT MEETING AT BORDESLEY GREEN ON 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**JANUARY 2023**

PRESENT:- C.Birch[BDAC],H.Blewitt[Ward End]{WP},D.Read[Ward End][WP},D.Hubball[BDAC],K.Yardley[Station Road]{WP},D.Ridley[Berwood Farm],P.Cooper[Berwood Farm],C.Harding[Marsh Hill],K.Gough[Marsh Hill],H.Flinn[Hawthorne House],J.Hodges[The Hill],A.Redfern[The Hill],C.Fenn[BDAC],D.Hall[Manor House],L.Wellings[Manor House],B.Finch[Manor House],L.Ward[Coventry Road],S.Massey[Coventry Road],J.Mowbry[BirchesGreen]R.Richard[Uplands],D.Wallace[Uplands], M.Noble[Yardley Green],P.Noble[Yardley Green],A.Rowe[Station Road],J.Upton[Gospel Lane]{WP} *WP= member of working party.*

C.Birch introduced H.Blewitt and D.Read, then outlined work done so far, emphasised importance of the site committees in process. Referred to tremendous work of the Working Party and involvement of L.Bunting, Legal Advisor at NSALG. One meeting with City Officers who, on the whole, accepted the Draft Agreement BUT Legal Services had not seen it yet.

**Q. Was agreement a legal document or not with wording “best/reasonable endeavours”?** Yet to be agreed. Need to reduce red tape and trust committees to manage.

**Q. Are current agreements valid?** In many cases no as original signatories are no longer on site, however, BCC would say yes. Who is responsible/liable if committee members are not signatories to current agreement, to be resolved. Request from Allotment for details of committee members should be ignored an only secretaries’ details updated as necessary.

**Q. Where did individuals stand regarding Health and Safety?** A.Rowe [Station Road] is a Health and Safety Officer, she stated she would have nothing to do with that part of the agreement without the BCC asserting its responsibility. Also response to emergency situations had to be immediate.

**Q. Do definitions and some wording need to be “tightened up” such as association/committee seeming to be interchangeable?** This would be done.

**Q. Was the agreement a landlord/tenant document?** It was felt no, a tenancy agreement existed between tenant and landlord.

**Q. Was schedule 9 on training [set out by BCC officers] achievable?** Under current city staffing no.

*H. Blewitt now outlined various options to the draft agreement, giving examples of self-management around the country. D. Read outlined the differences between incorporated and unincorporated associations. H. Blewitt explained the cooperative model for committees. They said the current draft agreement was a basis for a shorter term settlement. Reference was made to a need for “BDAC Mark2” to undertake future management of sites.*

**Q. Is current devolved budget adequate?** Neither the current budget nor the 10% rent rebate was adequate. Sustainability would cost a huge rent increase of 100% plus on current plan.

**Q. What are the alternatives to current agreement or full[er] self-management?** The City takes back control or outsource the management to contractors. It was felt that management committees were operating on “fuller” self-management as the city was not meeting its obligations. *There was a lengthy discussion on the benefits of self-management.*

**On each of the questions there was extensive discussion.**

**Conclusion.** There had to be a vast improvement in the allotment service from the BCC. Management Committees are self-managing in many aspects of running the allotments.

C. Birch made a request for executive members and local advisors

